



## Chesapeake Bay Program Nutrient Subcommittee

### Tributary Strategy Workgroup Policy

## Assessing New and Innovative Approaches for Nutrient and Sediment Reductions

The Tributary Strategy Workgroup acknowledges the difficulty jurisdictions have reaching current nutrient and sediment cap loads relying solely on the established list of watershed model (WSM) BMPs. The workgroup supports and encourages new ideas and innovative uses of current practices. Successful approaches benefit everyone.

However, the workgroup also has a responsibility to ensure that nutrient reduction “credits” associated with a practice are based upon peer reviewed research values and best professional judgment. All WSM BMP efficiencies went through this type of review when first established. Existing BMPs are currently going through an extensive re-evaluation process to ensure their reduction efficiencies match the latest research. We can ask no less of any new practice or innovation.

This paper describes the TSWG policy for new BMPs or innovative uses of current BMPs. It is intended to define the responsibilities of the TSWG, the jurisdiction or workgroup proposing new BMPs, the necessary documentation, and the review process.

*Jurisdictions will not receive nutrient or sediment reduction credit in the watershed model for BMPs that have not been through a review process and obtained Nutrient Subcommittee approval.*

Although the TSWG itself can propose a new BMP or innovative use, it is more likely an action initiated by a jurisdiction or CBP technical workgroup. For the purposes of this paper proposals are not initiated by the TSWG. However, if the TSWG does propose a new BMP or innovative methodology, the same criteria and review process applies. The “reviewer” will be the Nutrient Subcommittee or group representing them.

The private sector usually develops innovative technologies. However, they should not expect direct TSWG review and/or endorsement. Technologies and innovative approaches must earn support at the jurisdiction or workgroup level first to ensure interest and to minimize the TSWG workload. When a technology is worthy of consideration, a jurisdiction or workgroup will initiate the review process.

## **TSWG and Jurisdiction Responsibilities**

1. It is the responsibility of the jurisdiction or workgroup initiating the proposed BMP to provide the documentation needed for evaluation. This is not a routine assignment of subcommittee/workgroup support staff. Staff involvement requires prior agreement from the chairs of the TSWG and Nutrient Subcommittee.

2. Jurisdiction/workgroup responsibility is to provide the following minimum evaluation materials:

- BMP Name/Title
- Detailed Definition
- Recommended N/P/sediment efficiencies w/peer reviewed references
- Landuses to which BMP is applied
- Conditions under which BMP works  
(Is this a seasonal practice)
- Units of measure (ft, acres)
- Locations within CB basin where applicable/ not applicable
- Useful life, maximum implementation level
- Cumulative or annual practice

3. TSWG responsibilities:

- to ensure complete timely technical review
- to determine best method for incorporating into the watershed model
- to determine when the BMP is incorporated

4. Once a BMP is approved for use (by NSC), it is available for use by all jurisdictions.